



Department of Justice

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SPRINGFIELD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING COUNTERFEIT CHECKS

COLUMBUS – Harrison Clark, age 34 of Springfield, Ohio pled guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of possession of counterfeit securities after customs inspectors caught him returning to the U.S. from Mexico with counterfeit checks.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent-in-Charge of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Investigations in Detroit; and David Murphy, Director, Field Operations for U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the plea entered today before United States District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

According to court documents, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at Port Columbus International Airport were inspecting an inbound flight from Cancun, Mexico on July 31, 2005 when they found multiple checks made out to various people, blank check paper, check writing software, a portable printer, and a laptop computer in Clark's carry-on luggage. Clark told inspectors he had forgotten that the items were in his carry-on.

The checks in Clark's possession were determined to be counterfeit after agents of the Bureau of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contacted businesses identified on the checks.

A forensic examination of Clark's laptop computer yielded evidence of scanned checks from businesses identified as victims of fraud, scanned checks made out to other individuals, as well as scanned emblems of various businesses, names, Social Security numbers, birthdates and descriptions of various other people.

Clark is currently serving an 18-month federal sentence after pleading guilty to a similar crime in the Northern District of Ohio on May 30, 2006. Judge Frost will set a date for sentencing.

Lockhart commended the diligence of the CBP inspectors and the ICE agents who conducted the investigation, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Marcia Harris, who prosecuted the case.